

USDA Designates Three Massachusetts Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

Emergency Designation | November 04, 2022

[View PDF](#)

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through [emergency loans](#). Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

Impacted Area: Massachusetts

Triggering Disaster: Excessive heat and drought that occurred from May 9, 2022, and continuing

Application Deadline: May 30, 2023

Primary Counties Eligible: Berkshire, Hampden and Hampshire

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible: **Massachusetts:** Franklin and Worcester

Connecticut: Hartford, Litchfield and Tolland

New York: Columbia, Dutchess and Rensselaer

Vermont: Bennington

More Resources

On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of

Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Farm Service Agency:

1400 Independence Ave.
SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk

FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov